

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
KATHLEEN PIERCE-RYAN

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my constituent Kathleen Pierce-Ryan, who as an active member of her community, passionate about giving back through her gift of song.

Kathleen Pierce-Ryan was born on April 7, 1931, to Irish immigrants in the Bronx. Her talent for singing became evident early in life, and she developed her voice with her music teacher Sister Gabriel at St. Gabriel's Parish School. Going on to win local singing competitions and receive awards for her performances, Kathleen auditioned at the Metropolitan Opera where she was awarded a scholarship and even performed at a concert in Manhattan Town Hall.

It was her brother who invited Kathleen to perform at the inaugural ceremony at Calverton National Cemetery, and she volunteered there, singing the National Anthem and God Bless America every Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony, for the next 39 years. Having had the honor of attending many of these services, I can attest that her songs touched the hearts of everyone who had the pleasure of listening and provided solace to those who grieved.

It was during some of the hardest moments in the lives of these veteran families that Kathleen's voice comforted them, her patriotic melodies evoking an everlasting sense of pride. There is no doubt her passing pains the hearts of each and every family she touched throughout her 39 years singing at Calverton. Her voice is now sorely missed across Calverton National Cemetery and our entire community.

This Memorial Day, as we honor the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have fought for the freedoms and liberties that make this country the greatest in the world and the families that have stood by their side, let us also remember the so many Americans like Kathleen who have done their part to serve and inspire throughout our great nation.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BETTY  
LIGGINS

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Liggins, a nurse and community civil rights activist, whose work tackling rampant crime and drugs in her neighborhood helped create a safe environment for families to thrive and grow.

Although she lost her final battle on May 8, 2019, her legacy as a nurse working out of her mobile health clinic and helping those in need lives on. Ms. Liggins' service was inspired by a chance meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a civil rights march in Chicago, where Dr. King encouraged her to go back to school, finish her education, and help

others. Inspired by his words, she attended the University of Arizona where she received her degree and became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and vowed to use her talents to champion the causes of the voiceless.

Ms. Liggins received many awards for her service to our community. She received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major Award" and the National Jefferson Award in 1993 which was awarded in our nation's capital. Her activism and leadership helped lift our community beyond what we could ever imagine, and she was recognized as one of the 25 Most Influential African Americans in Southern Arizona.

Ms. Liggins also took pride in her political activism and worked tirelessly to register voters and use the ballot box for change. An active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), she continually advocated for criminal justice reform to give incarcerated young African Americans a chance at a better life. Bearing witness to the blatant racism and prejudice of her youth endowed her with the grit and determination to ensure that that mistakes and trauma of the past were not inflicted on future generations.

In that vein, she took on the education system and advocated for better policies to improve the graduation rates of African American students. Instead of being discouraged by a justice system that sometimes turned a critical eye to the poor, and a health system that put corporate interests over the health of her community, she remained motivated to create positive change.

Betty Liggins didn't hold back. Her life is an example of how ordinary citizens with ordinary means can always stand up against the evils of injustice and poverty and accomplish extraordinary things.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I had a scheduling conflict which caused me to miss the following vote. I would have voted "No" on roll call vote 166.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2020 CENSUS

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2020 Census. Every decade, the Census shapes important local infrastructure and investment decisions like where to build new schools, establish workforce training sites, invest in road and public transportation projects, and fund health care and affordable housing. The Census also determines how many Members of Congress are allocated per state and informs decisions about Congressional district lines, ensuring fair representation.

An accurate Census is vital to the well-being of Washington's communities. That is why I

oppose adding a citizenship question to the Census. By enabling informed decisions, accurate Census data can create jobs, stimulate economic growth and increase employment opportunities for people in Washington's Second District. Adding an un-tested citizenship question will sow fear and lead people to not respond to the Census survey, negatively impacting local communities.

Madam Speaker, I continue to support a well-researched and just 2020 Census to foster innovation, growth and prosperity for Washington state communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 20, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 218, and Yea on Roll Call No. 219.

CONGRATULATING THE BRADLEY  
UNIVERSITY SPEECH TEAM ON  
THEIR WIN AT THE AMERICAN  
FORENSICS ASSOCIATION'S NA-  
TIONAL TOURNAMENT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments. Bradley University is the only team to win a national championship every decade since 1980 and is one of the most winning teams in the country.

Bradley's Speech Team is an extremely accomplished program and impressively have now added two more national titles to their long list of championships. The program has also claimed more than 150 individual national champions and has served as a special place on campus for students to come together, tell stories and improve their communication skills along the way. The speech community unites students across the country and provides them with a community to share their passions and discuss topics important to them. I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to have a team as special as this. They are an example of how a strong work ethic and dedication can lead to victory. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see them represent Peoria throughout the state and country. I look forward to following them as they continue their work and build skills that will last a lifetime.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as the Bradley University Speech Team that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments.